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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

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TITLE: CAMERA ACCESSORY CASE

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CAMERA ACCESSORY CASE**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application claims priority of Taiwanese application no. 092204374, filed on March 20, 2003.

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

The invention relates to a camera accessory case, more particularly to a camera accessory case adapted to be mounted on a camera connecting plate of a camera stand.
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2. Description of the Related Art

During film-making, in order to dispense with the need for film-making personnel to carry essential camera accessories, such as chalks, flashlights, ball-point pens, screw drivers, etc., and in order to ensure that
15 the camera accessories are within easy reach, it has been proposed heretofore to mount a camera accessory holder 11 on a camera stand 13 which supports a camera 14 thereon, as best shown in Figure 1. The holder 11 is mounted on the camera stand 13 with the use of a support
20 frame 12 such that the holder 11 is disposed at the front side of the camera stand 13, i.e., the direction of the lens of the camera 14. The holder 11 is formed with a plurality of receiving spaces to receive different camera accessories therein. A camera support 131 of the
25 camera stand 13 is pivotable to adjust tilting angle of the camera 14 in different directions. The holder

11 remains still during tilt adjustment of the camera support 131.

5 The aforesaid camera accessory holder 11 is disadvantageous in that, when the camera 14 is operated to tilt forwardly, the lens of the camera 14 might collide with the camera accessories on the holder 11. The holder 11 thus interferes with the movement of the camera 14 on the camera stand 13, which necessitates dismounting of the holder 11 and which inconveniences the film-making
10 personnel.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, the object of the present invention is to provide a camera accessory case that can be used to store camera accessories therein and that is clear of
15 the aforesaid drawback associated with the conventional camera accessory holder.

Accordingly, the camera accessory case of the present invention is adapted to be mounted on a camera connecting plate of a camera stand, and comprises a casing body
20 and an anchoring unit.

The casing body has a bottom wall and a peripheral wall extending upwardly from a periphery of the bottom wall. The bottom wall and the peripheral wall cooperate to confine an accessory receiving space that has a top
25 opening. The casing body has a casing axis transverse to the bottom wall.

The anchoring unit has a plate connecting portion adapted to be mounted fixedly on the camera connecting plate, and a casing connecting portion connected pivotally to the plate connecting portion and further
5 connected to the peripheral wall of the casing body such that the casing axis can be disposed in an upright position even when the camera connecting plate is tilted.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other features and advantages of the present
10 invention will become apparent in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a conventional camera accessory holder mounted on a camera stand;

15 Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of the preferred embodiment of a camera accessory case according to the present invention;

Figure 3 is an assembled perspective view of the preferred embodiment when mounted on a camera stand;

20 Figure 4 is a schematic view illustrating the camera accessory case of the preferred embodiment when a camera on the camera stand is tilted;

Figure 5 is another schematic view illustrating the camera accessory case of the preferred embodiment when
25 the camera on the camera stand is tilted sidewise; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view similar to Figure 3, but showing a lid on a casing body of the preferred

embodiment when pivoted to an uncovering position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As shown in Figure 2, the bottom side of a camera 21 is connected to a camera connecting plate 23 to permit mounting of the camera 21 on a camera stand 22. Since
5 the position of the camera accessory case 3 of this invention should not interfere with tilting operations of the camera 21, the camera accessory case 3 is mounted on the camera connecting plate 23 or on top of the camera
10 stand 22 and is disposed adjacent to the left or right lateral side of the camera 21. For the sake of illustration, the camera accessory case 3 of this invention is shown in the drawings to be disposed adjacent to the right lateral side 211 of the camera
15 21. It is also noted that the bottom side of the camera 21 is usually formed with a groove 212 that permits resting of the camera 21 on a shoulder of a cameraman. Therefore, a space is present between the camera 21 and the camera connecting plate 23 due to the groove 212.
20 Accordingly, the camera accessory case 3 of this invention is preferably adapted to be mounted in the space between the camera 21 and the camera connecting plate 23 for convenience in design and for efficient utilization of space.

25 The preferred embodiment of the camera accessory case 3 according to this invention includes a casing body 4, an anchoring unit 5, and a lid 6.

The casing body 4 includes a bottom wall 41 and a peripheral wall 40 extending upwardly from a periphery of the bottom wall 41. The bottom wall 41 and the peripheral wall 40 cooperate to confine an accessory receiving space 400 that has a top opening. The accessory receiving space 400 may be partitioned into a plurality of compartments (not shown) for receiving different camera accessories (not shown) therein. The casing body 4 has a casing axis transverse to the bottom wall 41. In this embodiment, the bottom wall 41 is rectangular, and the peripheral wall 40 includes a left upright wall portion 42, a right upright wall portion 43, a front upright wall portion 44, and a rear upright wall portion 45.

The lid 6 serves to cover the top opening of the accessory receiving space 400. Hinges 61 interconnect pivotally the lid 6 and the peripheral wall 40. In order to prevent the camera 21 or components of the camera stand 22 from interfering with uncovering movement of the lid 6, the hinges 61 are preferably mounted on an outer top edge of one of the wall portions 42, 43, 44, 45 that is farthest from the camera 21 and the camera stand 22. As illustrated in Figure 2, since the left upright wall portion 42 is closest to the camera 21, the hinges 61 are preferably mounted on the right upright wall portion 43. With further reference to Figure 6, the lid 6 has a flat surface 62 that faces upwardly when

the lid 6 is pivoted to an uncovering position. Each hinge 61 includes first and second hinge leaves 612, 613 connected respectively to the lid 6 and the right upright wall portion 43 of the peripheral wall 40, and a hinge pin 611 interconnecting the first and second hinge leaves 612, 613. The first and second hinge leaves 612, 613 cooperate to support the lid 6 at the uncovering position. Particularly, the first hinge leaf 612 abuts against the second hinge leaf 613 when the lid 6 is at the uncovering position so that the flat surface 62 of the lid 6, which is made of a material of sufficient hardness, can serve as a writing support.

Referring to Figures 2 and 3, the anchoring unit 5 includes first and second anchoring plates 51, 52, which constitute a plate connecting portion that is adapted to be mounted fixedly on the camera connecting plate 23, and an anchoring frame 53, which serves as a casing connecting portion that is connected pivotally to the plate connecting portion and that is further connected to the peripheral wall 40 of the casing body 4 such that the casing axis can be disposed in an upright position even when the camera connecting plate 23 is tilted.

The first anchoring plate 51 extends in a longitudinal direction and has a first end 511 that is adapted to be mounted fixedly on the camera connecting plate 23 so as to be disposed in the space between the camera 21 and the camera connecting plate 23, and a second end

512 opposite to the first end 511 in the longitudinal direction. Accordingly, the second end 512 of the first anchoring plate 51 projects relative to the right lateral side 211 of the camera 21.

5 The second anchoring plate 52 has a first plate end 521 connected to the second end 512 of the first anchoring plate 51, and a second plate end 522 connected pivotally to the anchoring frame 53. In this embodiment, the second plate end 522 is spaced apart from the first plate end
10 521 along a transverse direction that is transverse to the longitudinal direction of the first anchoring plate 51.

 The anchoring frame 53 of this embodiment includes a first arm 531 that has a middle segment connected
15 pivotally to the second plate end 522 of the second anchoring plate 52 and that is disposed adjacent to the left upright wall portion 42, and second and third arms 532, 533 that extend transversely from opposite ends of the first arm 531 and that are connected pivotally
20 and respectively to the front and rear upright wall portions 44, 45 of the peripheral wall 40 of the casing body 4 adjacent to the top opening of the accessory receiving space 400. The first arm 531 is slightly longer than the length of the casing body 4, i.e., the distance
25 between the front and rear upright wall portions 44, 45. The lengths of the second and third arms 532, 533 are equal and are shorter than the width of the casing

body 4, i.e., the distance between the left and right upright wall portions 42, 43.

In this embodiment, the anchoring unit 5 further includes a releasable locking member 534, in the form of a wing nut, for arresting selectively pivoting movement of the third arm 533, and thus the anchoring frame 53, relative to the peripheral wall 40 of the casing body 4. Another releasable locking member (not shown) may be employed to act on the second arm 532 in a similar manner.

In the preferred embodiment, the anchoring unit 5 further includes a releasable fastening unit 513 for interconnecting releasably and non-rotatably the first plate end 521 of the second anchoring plate 52 and the second end 512 of the first anchoring plate 51. The fastening unit 513 is conventional in construction, is mounted on the second end 512 of the first anchoring plate 51, and engages releasably an engaging hole 523 formed in the first plate end 521 of the second anchoring plate 52. Due to the fastening unit 513, the casing body 4 can be mounted and dismounted with relative ease.

It should be noted that, in this embodiment, the plate connecting portion of the anchoring unit 5 is split into the first and second anchoring plates 51, 52 for the purpose of convenience when mounting and dismounting the casing body 4. In practice, it is feasible to form the plate connecting portion into a single integral unit

if convenience when mounting and dismounting the casing body 4 is not a primary concern.

Moreover, weight can be added to the bottom wall 41 of the casing body 4 to avoid unforced swaying of the casing body 4.

Referring once again to Figure 3, when the camera 21 tilts, because the camera accessory case 3 is connected to the camera connecting plate 23, the camera accessory case 3 will move as well such that the camera 21 will not collide with the camera accessory case 3. Moreover, referring to Figure 4, when the camera connecting plate 23 is tilted forwardly or rearwardly, the first and second anchoring plates 51, 52 will do the same accordingly. However, since the anchoring frame 53 is pivotally connected to the second anchoring plate 52, and since the anchoring frame 53 bears the relatively heavy weight of the casing body 4, the casing axis of the casing body 4 can be maintained in the upright position. Furthermore, referring to Figure 5, when the camera 21 is tilted sidewise, and the locking member 534 is operated to permit pivoting movement of the anchoring frame 53 relative to the casing body 4, the casing axis of the casing body 4 can still be disposed in the upright position by virtue of the weight of the casing body 4.

In sum, the camera accessory case 3 of this invention is designed to prevent collision with the camera 21 when

adjusting tilt of the latter, and has a casing body 4 with a casing axis that can be disposed in the upright position to ensure that items do not spill out of the casing body 4 even when the camera connecting plate 23 is tilted. Moreover, the lid 6 of the camera accessory case 3 can further serve as a writing support when disposed at the uncovering position.

While the present invention has been described in connection with what is considered the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is understood that this invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment but is intended to cover various arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent arrangements.